

Waymart, R.#1, Pa. 18472. 3023.56
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Messrs. Powell Bros:

Enclosed find check for \$9.00 for one yr. sub. and another issue of
(No.1 -- Aug. 15, 1979.)

I have enjoyed reading your first issue of the Northeastern Pa., historical quarterly, and was glad to have the pictures of my grandfather and grandmother Curtis, as I didn't have a picture of them.

You have certainly put forth a lot of research on this paper. You mentioned about having the Berean Church and other outstanding things around Carbondale for your next issue. With all your research and Edith Gardner's help, I am sure I can't add much.. My husband, Ensign H. Varcoe, was born in Carbondale, but came to live with his grandparents (J.E. McMullen -- see map), when he was young. I now live on this farm (alone), as my husband passed away more than a year ago. It is 1/2 mi. above Lois' towards Forest City. As his parents lived in Carbondale for a while, (1890--), among things his mother had saved is a cardboard folder of Birthday Party, May 24, '95 -- Berean Baptist Chapel.. Inside this folder on left is an invitation, and on right -- Programme -- Hildah McMullen and Mrs. E.B. Gardner are two mentioned taking part on the program. Also have another card to Anniversary Banquet in this church, dated Jan. 29, 1896. I thought I had a picture of one of the buildings being built in Carbondale, but find it is marked in pencil, "Building Greek Catholic Church at Forest City, Pa." In this picture is W.J.Varcoe (Ensign's father) on the scaffold, as he was one of the carpenters. This picture must be around 100 yrs.. old.

At the Griswold reunion, Don mentioned Maple Grove Church. In the History of Wayne, Pike & Monroe Counties by Alfred Mathews 1886 (I have one of these books) On pg. 660 is the following:----"The Maple Grove Church, in the south part of the township, a branch of the Phoenix, was built, 1874-77.

Among several old Booklets about Baptist that I have, is one of especial interest. On the cover -- The First Baptist Church -- Clinton -- Articles of Faith, Covenant and Church Directory --- 1882. Inside is the following: Pastor - Jas. H. Remsen -- Clerk E.K.Norton - Deacons - E.K.Norton, H.B. Curtis, H.F.Loomis.. There have been several Anniversaries in this church, At the 120th Anniversary (Nov. 23, 1951) I was asked to give a history. So I wrote some verses (don't know as I should say poetry). In this I told about it being organized in 1831, and about the cyclone in 1851, which blew the building away. The song "Almost Persuaded" both words and music were composed by P.P.Bliss, at the home of J.J.Curtis, Aldenville; after attending a revival meeting at the Clinton Baptist Church. You probably have been told about these things, as there are other people and records available. In regard to Curtis Valley Sun. School --- In 1955, when we started our new building, I tried to get information from older ones, and remembering what my father (Francis H.Curtis) had told me; also I found a Teachers Book, belonging to my grandfather (H.B.Curtis) dated 1866,. I made up a History to 1955. Since that time I have snap-shots and clippings, etc., and a good record. I have gone there all my life. I am past 80, and still attending.

If you should write about Pleasant Mount township; I have / the book, "History of Twp., of Mount Pleasant, Wayne Co.Pa." 1856. If you would like to see this book, you may come here to look at it. I am very choice of it, as it gives accounts of McMullens (on my husband side) and the Stantons (on my side)---also about Pioneers. I didn't intend to write such a long letter. My telephone number is: 785 - 5361.

Verna C. Varcoe 95